



Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot

*Boston Connects People to Economic Opportunity, Inc.,
Boston, MA*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

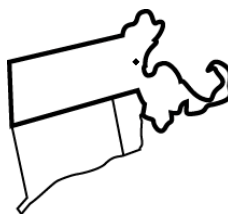
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$1,000,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected Boston Connects People to Economic Opportunity, Inc. (BCI) for a Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Project. BCI's assessment pilot partner is the City of Boston. The City also has received a Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilot. The Brownfields Assessment Pilot targets the City's federal Empowerment Zone (population 57,640). Three-quarters of the diverse Empowerment Zone population are minorities (African American, Hispanic, and Asian). The poverty rate in the Empowerment Zone is nearly 36% and the unemployment rate exceeds 16%.

The Job Training Pilot also will focus on Boston's Empowerment Zone. As industries have been phased out of the city and moved to suburban greenfields, parts of Boston have been left littered with abandoned and vacant properties. The State of Massachusetts has identified 455 brownfields within Empowerment Zone neighborhoods of Boston. There is a need for providing training to Empowerment Zone residents that will enable them to take advantage of employment opportunities created by ongoing and planned redevelopment projects at brownfields sites in their neighborhoods.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Boston, Massachusetts

Date of Announcement:
December 2000

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot will train 90 participants as environmental technicians. Students will be recruited from neighborhoods within Boston's Empowerment Zone, within which active and projected brownfields cleanup and redevelopment projects have created a strong demand for environmental technicians.

Contacts:

Boston Connects People to
Economic Opportunity, Inc.
(617) 918-5225

Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA - Region 1
(617) 918-1210

Visit the EPA Region 1 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/remed/brnflld/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

TRAINING OBJECTIVES

BCI plans to train 90 participants, achieve an 85% placement rate, and support career placement of graduates for two years after the training is completed. Participants will be recruited from the Empowerment Zone. The 12-week Pilot training program will consist of introduction to environmental science, introduction to brownfields remediation, introduction to surveying, environmental field sampling, workplace safety and tools training, lead and asbestos abatement, HAZWOPER, wastewater treatment, alternative remediation, alternative technologies, clean technologies, environmental management systems, and toxic use reduction, including training in the use of innovative assessment and remediation technologies.

BCI's training efforts will be supported by organizations such as the Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Redevelopment Authority, the New England Consortium, Suffolk County House of Correction, Roxbury Community College, STRIVE-Boston Employment Service, and Women in the Building Trades. Local developers and remediation firms that are actively involved in major brownfields redevelopment projects have committed to hiring graduates. In addition, developers must honor first-source hiring agreements as a condition of Empowerment Zone bond financing.

ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting outreach to recruit residents from Boston's Empowerment Zone;
- Conducting environmental technician training, including courses in the use of innovative assessment and cleanup technologies; and
- Supporting career placement of students for two years after the job training is completed.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.